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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Eiji KASUTANI

Appln. No.: 09/732,701

Confirmation No.: 2921

Filed: December 11, 2000

For: IMAGE RETRIEVAL DEVICE, IMAGE RETRIEVAL METHOD AND STORAGE  
MEDIUM STORING SIMILAR-IMAGE RETRIEVAL PROGRAM

Docket No: Q62251

Allowed: Not Yet Allowed DEC 08 2003

Group Art Unit: 2623 Technology Center 2600

Examiner: Jon C. CHANG

RECEIVED

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

**MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

1. U.S. Patent Application No. 5,555,555, published September 10, 1996.
2. European Patent Application No. 0626655-A2, published November 30, 1994.
3. Japanese Patent Application No. 05347000-A, published December 27, 1993.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (without a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/732,701

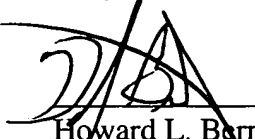
mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore a check for the fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is attached.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding Japanese Office Action dated July 8, 2003, and an English translation of the pertinent portions thereof, which cites such documents and indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 4, 2003